

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 211827  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/I:MLCHESSES

APPROVED BY AF:RMOOSE

AF/E:GBEYER (DRAFT)

AF/S:GMOOSE (DRAFT)

AF/C:WSWING

AF/W:RHOUDEK

ACDA:WDURCH

PM/SSP:ATHOMS

S/S:SGOLDSMITH

-----068103 212239Z /12

R 211917Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

S E C R E T STATE 211827

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PCAT, PARM, US, UR, XA

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 211827

SUBJECT: US-SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ARMS TALKS

REF: (A) STATE 178349 (B) STATE 194469

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECONSIDERED ITS POSITION ON BRIEFING  
CERTAIN AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS ON THE THIRD ROUND OF THE CAT

TALKS (REF. B). IN ORDER TO BUILD CONFIDENCE WE HAVE DECIDED THAT A LOW-KEY BRIEFING AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL MAY BE USEFUL. POSTS WHICH WERE ACTION ADDRESSEES ON REF. (A) SHOULD GO BACK TO ROUGHLY THE SAME PERSONS YOU SPOKE WITH AT THAT TIME. OTHER POSTS SHOULD ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO SENIOR WORKING LEVEL IN FOREIGN MINISTRIES. THE LATTER POSTS SHOULD DRAW ON REF. (A) TO SET THE STAGE.

2. THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS SHOULD BE USED, NOTING THAT WE MERELY WISH TO BRING HOST GOVERNMENTS-UP-TO-DATE ON THE RESULTS OF OUR MEETINGS WITH THE SOVIETS. YOU SHOULD AGAIN NOTE THAT THESE TALKS WERE CONDUCTED IN THE SPIRIT OF PARAGRAPH 85 OF THE SSOD PROGRAM OF ACTION (PARA 4 E OF REF. A):

A. AGREEMENT ON FRAMEWORK

-- IN THIS ROUND, THE US AND SOVIET UNION DISCUSSED A THREE-PART FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE TALKS, CONSISTING OF POLITICAL-LEGAL CRITERIA, MILITARY-TECHNICAL CRITERIA, AND REGIONAL APPLICATION.

-- THE POLITICAL-LEGAL CRITERIA WOULD BE BASED ON THE UN CHARTER, UN RESOLUTIONS, AND OTHER INTERNATIONALLY AGREED DOCUMENTS. THEY SHOULD SERVE TWO PURPOSES: (1) IDENTIFYING LEGAL CONSTRAINTS ON ARMS TRANSFERS; AND (2)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 211827

IDENTIFYING RELEVANT POLITICAL FACTORS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN MAKING ARMS TRANSFER DECISIONS.

-- THE MILITARY-TECHNICAL CRITERIA SET BOUNDARIES ON THE TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF WEAPONS TO BE PROVIDED. BOTH SIDES AGREE IN PRINCIPLE THAT A COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINT WILL REQUIRE BOTH TYPES OF CRITERIA.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO DISCUSS THESE CRITERIA IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC REGIONAL SITUATIONS. THIS WILL GIVE SUBSTANCE TO THE CRITERIA, WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE GENERAL AND ABSTRACT STATEMENTS OF INTEREST, AND IT WILL REDUCE THE CHANCES OF MISUNDERSTANDING.

-- BOTH SIDES AGREED IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS ANY REGION OR SUB-REGION OF THE WORLD, PROVIDED THEY WERE NOT ARTIFICIALLY CONTRIVED.

B. INTERIM RESTRAINT

-- THE USG PUT FORTH THE VIEW THAT, IN ADVANCE OF FINAL

AGREEMENT ON CRITERIA, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH INTERIM RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPECIFIC REGIONS. WHAT FORM SUCH ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT TAKE IS YET TO BE SEEN, AND WILL DEPEND IN MANY CASES, ON DESIRES OF PURCHASING COUNTRIES.

C. ROLE OF OTHER SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS

-- WHILE THERE ARE SOME POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT, BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZE THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS IN DEVELOPING AND/OR SUPPORTING ANY RESTRAINT REGIME. THEY ARE HOPEFUL THAT SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS WILL FIND IT IN THEIR INTERESTS TO SUPPORT ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 211827

-- WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS OUR POSITION THAT THE LEGITIMATE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS OF RECIPIENTS MUST BE MET AS PROVIDED FOR IN SSOD.

D. ASSESSMENT AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

-- THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE MOVEMENT TOWARD A COMMON UNDER-STANDING OF GENERAL GUIDELINES OR CRITERIA FOR US-SOVIET RESTRAINT IN ARMS TRANSFERS.

-- THE SOVIETS APPEARED TO TAKE THESE DISCUSSIONS SERIOUSLY. HOWEVER, THE NEXT ROUND -- TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR DECEMBER TO ENABLE BOTH SIDES TO UNDERTAKE THOROUGH PREPARATIONS -- WILL PROVIDE A TEST OF THE PROSPECTS FOR NEAR-TERM SUCCESS.

3. SHOULD YOU CONSIDER ANY OF THE FOREGOING COUNTER-PROMPTIVE IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT PLEASE SO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE211827  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MLCHESSES  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780341-1124  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780841/aaaabidj.tel  
**Line Count:** 156  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** d01add5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 178349, 78 STATE 194469  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1674633  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US-SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ARMS TALKS  
**TAGS:** PCAT, PARM, US, UR, XA  
**To:** ABIDJAN BAMAKO MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/d01add5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014